



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS,
TRIBAL AND PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

February 23, 2015

Erich T. Orth
Project Manager
Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs-DKE-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, Oregon 97293-4428

Re: Comments on the FEIS for Hooper Springs Transmission Project
(EPA Project Number 10-034-BPA)

Dear Mr Orth:

In accordance with our responsibilities under the Clean Air Act §309, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed **Hooper Springs Transmission Project** in Caribou County, Idaho.

In our comments on the Supplemental Draft EIS in August, 2014, we indicated no further concerns with this project because the Supplemental EIS addressed our earlier concerns with the draft EIS. However, we requested that the final EIS include up-to-date information about permits required by the project and recommended measures to specifically protect water quality and outcomes of Bonneville Power Administration's consultations with the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on potential migratory birds' impacts and recommended measures to reduce risks and protect biota and habitat.

The final EIS is responsive to our request for updated information on permit applications and outcomes of work with the USFWS. We are pleased to note your commitments to apply for and obtain all necessary permits for the project, including those for compliance with the Clean Water Act regulatory requirements. In addition, we appreciate your efforts to continue coordination with the USFWS on development and use of an avian collision risk model and the development of a marking plan to reduce the potential risks of avian collisions. Your responses address our comments.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this FEIS. If you have questions about our comments, please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or by electronic mail at reichgott.christine@epa.gov, or you may contact Theo Mbabaliye of my staff at (206) 553-6322 or electronic mail at mbabaliye.theogene@epa.gov.

Sincerely,



Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediment Management Unit